

## REMARKS

### *Summary*

The rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice and allowable dependent claims have been redrafted in independent form. Therefore, the application is now in condition for allowance.

### *Status of the Claims*

Claims 8-10, 27-29, and 65-67 are pending in the application, with Claims 8, 27 and 65 being independent. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 35, 37, 58-61, 63, 64, 73 and 75 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 8, 27 and 65 have been redrafted in independent form.

### *Requested Action*

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicant also requests that this amendment be entered because it merely cancels the rejected claims and redrafts the allowable claims in independent form.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that allowable subject matter has been indicated, in dependent Claims 8-10, 27-29 and 65-67. In response, Claims 8, 27, and 65 have been redrafted in independent form.

### *Formal Claim Objection*

Claim 20 is objected to for minor informalities therein and the Examiner suggests specific language for overcoming the objection. In response, Applicants have canceled Claim 20 and have incorporated the Examiner's suggested amendments to Claim 20 into

Claim 27, which has been redrafted in independent form to include the features of Claim 20.

*Substantive Rejections*

Claims 1-4, 6, 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 35, 37, 58-61, 63, 73 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being anticipated by the patent to Yamano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,885) in view of the publication by Slater (“Universal Serial Bus to Simplify PC I/O: New Interface to Service Keyboards, Mice, Telecom, and More”, Microprocessor Report: The Insiders’ Guide to Microprocessor Hardware, Vol. 9, No. 5, April 17, 1996, pp. 5-9). In addition, Claims 7, 26 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the patent to Yamano et al. in view of the publication by Slater, and the patent to Nishitani (U.S. Patent No. 5,184,169).

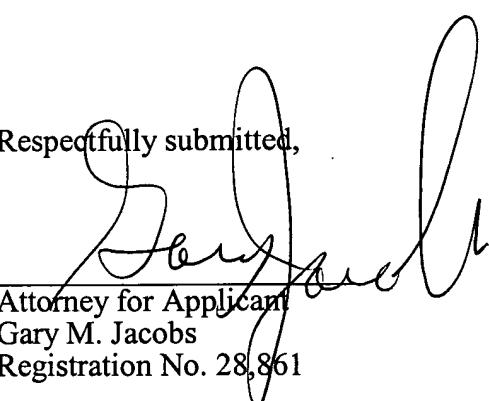
In response, these claims have been cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Therefore, these rejections are now moot.

*Conclusion*

Since the only claims remaining in the case contain allowable subject matter, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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